Maleena Lodhi, on the occasion of presentation of credentials in Washington on 15th February, 1994;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the reported speech of Pak Ambassador on the same occasion that Kashmir issue was "Worthy of the new global agenda to which both our (PAK & U.S.A.) nations share" and by way of sounding a note of warning her reported remarks "Kashmir was a time bomb that would not go away"; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and what dipolomatic steps have been taken so far with USA and other friendly countries of the world before the ensuing meeting of UNHRC in Geneva?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The MEA official spokesman pointed out that India is committed to uphold human rights as part of her heritage and as enshrined in our Constitution and our laws. The proven role of Pakistan as a State sponsor of terrorism must be taken into account. We regret that no concern has been expressed for the human rights of the victims of the terrorists armed, trained and sent into Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistan. Government have been impressing upon the US and other Governments that the Pak-sponsored Resolution that the UNHRC is politically motivated and that they should vote against the Resolution.

Clinton's Reaffirmation of USA's Alignment with Pakistan over human rights in Kishmir

2296. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the raking up of Human rights issue in Kashmir by US President Bill Clinton, reaffirming his country's alignment with Pakistan on the issue;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto; and

(c) what are the likely setbacks in the Indo-US relations as a consequence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government are aware of a statement by the US President regarding human rights in Kashmir. Government have conveyed that it is unfortunate that the remarks on human rights in Jammu and Kashmir have not taken into account the proven role of Pakistan as a State sponsor of terrorism. Government has regretted that no concern has been expressed for the human rights of the victims of the terrorists armed, trained and sent into Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistan. Government have emphasised that India is committed to uphold human rights as part of her heritage and as enshrined in our Constitution and laws.

While maintaining India's interests in all circumstances, Government continue to promote friendly, mutually cooperative and productive relations with all countries including the USA.

News Item Regarding Clinton's offer to PRO-ULTRA Kashmiris

2297. SHRI G. G. SWELL:

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to a news item "Clinton offers to work with pro-ultra Kashmiris' outfit" which appeared in the Indian Express, Delhi on 7th January, 1994;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to it;

(c) whether Government lodged any protest to the US administration in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In an official reaction, Government's Spokesman stated "we trust that when the US President referred to respect for human rights, it was in the context of gross violations of human rights by militants and terrorists aided and abetted from outside India. We entirely share the growing global interest in the strict observance of human rights and we are committed to strengthening the institutions relevant to the upholding of human rights".

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ambassador Ray, in a latter to US Under Secretary of State (for Political Affairs) Peter Tarnoff, conveyed Government's concern pointing out that Fai is a paid lobbyist of the Kashmiri American Council, a front organisation involved in funding and promoting militancy and terrorism in Kashmir. he emphasisted that it was disconcerting to see that an individual like Fai, who is in the forefront of the campaign for dismembering India, should seemingly receive recognition and encouragement from the highest political authority in the US. Any suggestion that the US President appreciate his inputs and looks forward to working with Fai is liable to serious misunderstandings. In a press release issued on January 6, 1994 the US State Department reiterated that their had been no change in the US Government's position on Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan-US Forces Jtint Exercise

2298 SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S.A. has offered mediation on Siachen disputes and his Ministry's officials are surprised rather than disturbed over the U.S. Pak joint military exercise for high altitude training programme involving crack commandoes of the U.S. army;

(b) whether Government propose to lodge a strong protest note to the Governments of Pakistan and U.S.A. in this regard stating that it involves the sovereignty and integrity of India and India will not tolerate third country's interference in its internal affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The US position regarding mediation between India and Pakistan is that they would be willing to assist in the peaceful resolution of outstanding issues if both India and Pakistan so desire.

Government are committed to the resolution of all differences between India and Pakistan peacefully and through bilateral negotiations in accordance with the Simla Agreement. There can be no scope for any third party involvement.

Government have noted that a month long joint training exercise was conducted from 6 January to 10 February, 1994 between the US Army Special Forces and the Pakistan Special Services Group in the Cherat region of the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. A similar exercise was also conducted in February 1993.

Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security, including the on-going military cooperation between the US and Pakistan. Government take all necessary measures to safeguard the unity and territorial integrity of the nation.

Meeting of World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland

2299. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Economic Forum met in Davos, Switzerland, this year;

(b) if so, who are the eminent world personalities who attended the forum;

(c) the date of the meeting;

(d) whether our Prime Minister also addressed the forum;

(e) the date of his address;

(f) whether Swiss authorities did not fully cooperate in the matter of the security of the Prime Minister; and

(g) if so, what were our requests that they refused to comply with?